

OPPORTUNITIES WHICH NEW YORK CITY OFFERS FOR POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL STUDY*

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"The distinction of being the first place in America to give systematic instruction to graduates in medicine belongs to New York City."

As early as 1809 the New York Hospital opened its wards to graduate students. In 1822 the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary reported having given instruction to 28 students. There seems to be no record of additional opportunities offered for the next thirty years, but at that time the New York Ophthalmic Hospital undertook a definite plan of instruction and in 1853 held organized courses in diseases of the eye. In 1873 the Metropolitan Throat Hospital first established in America upon a regular basis the instruction of medical graduates in the science of rhinolaryngology. Early in 1877 courses in diseases of the skin were in operation at the DeMilt Dispensary. Two years earlier a postgraduate department was established in New York University Medical College. This faculty in 1882 resigned from the medical college, and after an unsuccessful effort to effect an affiliation with some other university determined to establish in the city a school solely for postgraduate instruction. The group adopted the name of the New York Post-Graduate Medical School. At about the same time the New York Polyclinic Medical School—which for several years had been a skeleton organization—was opened. Thus for nearly 50 years these two schools have been in existence. They have long been known as the largest and most important postgraduate medical schools in America.

Further development was slow until the early part of the twentieth century, but "more and more the idea impressed itself upon those who gave the matter thought that the rich opportunities for graduates in medicine afforded

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by the many hospitals in the city should be made known to the profession at large." Finally there came about an important event in our story, the organization in December, 1912, of the "Society for the Advancement of Clinical Study in New York." This Society first undertook to establish a Bureau of Clinical Information in The New York Academy of Medicine. A little later it produced a booklet of the fixed clinics in hospitals where visitors were welcomed, and at the same time it began to publish a daily bulletin of surgical clinics. Five years later it organized a series of medical clinics which were given weekly, and announced them in a separate bulletin. The Society's work was carried on until 1924, when it transferred its activities to The New York Academy of Medicine.

In 1919 a still more ambitious attempt was made to advance the cause of postgraduate medical education in New York by the organization of the "New York Association for Medical Education." During the following few years the Association got out several bulletins which set forth in some detail the opportunities for graduate instruction offered in New York. It also made a study of the requirements for the training of specialists, and published outlines of a number of courses leading to specialization in the clinical branches. In 1924 this Association concluded its activities as a separate organization so as to merge with the "Society for the Advancement of Clinical Study in New York" to form the "Committee on Medical Education of The New York Academy of Medicine."

The information and quotations in this brief account of the beginning and early development of postgraduate medical education in New York are taken from the interesting paper of Dr. Thomas J. Harris which was published in the "Bulletin of the New York Academy of Medicine" for August, 1928.

THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ACADEMY OF MEDICINE

During the six years in which the new Committee has been in existence it has been active in carrying on the

work of the two organizations just mentioned, and in addition has interested itself in a number of undertakings looking toward the better organization of the resources of the city in extending and developing postgraduate medical study and in improving the practice of medicine. For some time the Committee has had charge of the arrangement of Academy programs for meetings and lectures, including the Graduate Fortnight, and of the publication of the monthly Bulletin of the Academy.

The Committee feels that its work has been a useful one. Two recent commendations might be mentioned. In an editorial notice which appeared in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* regarding the publication of a booklet prepared by the Committee it was stated: "In no other city in this country have the facilities for graduate instruction been so well organized, or the hospitals and clinics so carefully catalogued. The larger cities of this country, with their many well conducted hospitals and dispensaries, provide a great abundance of excellent clinical material which, if properly organized either through some such central committee or through university graduate medical schools, could be utilized in the higher education and training of physicians. Such organization for graduate medical instruction now constitutes one of the greatest needs in medical education in this country." A recent visitor to the Bureau of Clinical Information stated that it had been his custom to spend some time each year for the past 26 years in postgraduate study, and in doing so he had visited the important medical centers of this country and Europe. He volunteered the opinion that New York offers to the visiting medical man more than any other city that he has visited and that the opportunities for work here are better arranged and co-ordinated.

A year ago at the meeting in Havana I had the privilege of presenting to this Association an invitation from the Academy of Medicine. May I take the liberty of repeating it at this time.

"THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF MEDICINE desires to extend a welcome to all members of the medical profession who may visit New York. It offers its facilities in the hope that they may be helpful in making the visitors' stay both pleasant and profitable.

"THE LIBRARY (open from 9 A. M. to 10:30 P. M.) is one of the largest of its kind in the United States. It contains upwards of 140,000 books and theses and over 100,000 pamphlets, which are fully catalogued. Its files of American and foreign periodicals are very complete. There is a bibliographical and photostat service available for visitors at the usual library rates.

"MEETINGS. Besides two stated meetings of the Academy held each month, there are monthly meetings of the twelve different groups of Fellows organized into sections devoted to various branches of medicine and surgery and to historical and cultural medicine. In addition to these meetings, many medical societies of the city hold their meetings at the Academy. There are usually one or more meetings held at the Academy each night of the month except Sundays and holidays.

"LECTURES. A series of afternoon lectures on subjects of special interest to the practitioner is given each year, beginning in November. Lectures on public health and other subjects of current medical interest are frequently held.

"THE ANNUAL GRADUATE FORTNIGHT is held in October each year, and consists of a series of lectures and co-ordinated clinics, clinical demonstrations and courses in hospitals and teaching institutions on a subject which is of outstanding importance in the practice of medicine and surgery.

"All meetings and lectures held at the Academy are open to the profession generally and to medical students."

NEW YORK'S CLINICAL RESOURCES

Previous mention has been made of the vast clinical resources of New York. The hospitals of the city contain over 34,000 beds, or more than 10 per cent of the general hospitals of the country. In them upwards of 500,000 patients are cared for each year. Ninety-four hospitals, having an aggregate of about 25,000 beds, offer opportunities for postgraduate medical study.

Many hospitals are affiliated with postgraduate and undergraduate medical schools and offer courses under the auspices of these schools. Eight important special hospitals not affiliated with medical schools offer short courses in certain clinical specialties. The opportunities for postgraduate medical study which these hospitals offer consist of courses, special internships or residencies, research appointments, assistantships, clinics and clinical conferences. These opportunities occur in forms such as will meet the needs of medical men engaged in every line of practice, teaching or research.

They may be classified as:

Comprehensive graded courses and residencies leading to specialization.

Fundamental basic science courses for the general practitioner, for the specialist and for the worker in an allied science.

Opportunities for the specialist to observe the latest methods used in the practice of men pre-eminent in the specialties.

Opportunities for the general practitioner to obtain the more recent viewpoints and to observe new procedures in special lines of work, new methods of diagnosis and of treatment.

COURSES

The survey of postgraduate medical education in New York City has constituted one of the important undertakings of the Committee on Medical Education since its

organization in 1924. The survey has been carried on from year to year with a view to improving the value of existing opportunities and encouraging the development of additional ones. The Committee has given its approval only to those courses which after investigation have been found to be well organized, with adequate equipment and clinical material, and given by physicians of character who are known to be qualified teachers in their special lines of work. At the completion of each year's survey the Committee has revised and published a series of twelve "Synopsis of Approved Opportunities for Postgraduate Medical Education offered in New York City in the Clinical Specialties." It has also published a synopsis of opportunities for postgraduate study in laboratory and basic medical science subjects.

The number and variety of the courses announced in the synopses may be seen in the following summary:

DERMATOLOGY AND SYPHILOLOGY—

A comprehensive course of one or two years. Twenty-five courses of six weeks to three months.

INTERNAL MEDICINE—

Seventy-one courses of from six weeks to three months.

NEUROLOGY AND PSYCHIATRY—

Fifty-one courses of from six weeks to three months.

OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY—

Nineteen courses of from two weeks to three months.

OPHTHALMOLOGY—

Twenty-eight courses of from one month to two years.

OTOLARYNGOLOGY—

Fifty-nine courses of from one month to one year.

COMBINED EYE, EAR, NOSE AND THROAT—

One month to twelve months.

PEDIATRICS—

Thirty-four courses of from one month to six months.

ROENTGENOLOGY—

Fourteen courses of from one month to six months.

SURGERY—

Thirty-four courses of from six weeks to 2½ years.

ORTHOPEDIC, TRAUMATIC, PLASTIC AND REHABILITATION SURGERY AND PHYSICAL THERAPY—

Forty courses of from one to two months.

UROLOGY—

Fifteen courses of from one to six months.

RESIDENCIES IN THE CLINICAL SPECIALTIES

Residencies in the important clinical specialties are available in New York hospitals to qualified medical men who desire to undertake in this way to prepare themselves for special practice. There are 336 residencies offered which have been approved by the American Medical Association. Many of them carry a stipend of \$50 to \$100 per month in addition to maintenance. In most instances the term of service is from one to two years.

Listed according to specialty the residencies number :

Anesthesia—4	Otolaryngology and Ophthalmology, combined—13
Cancer—7	Pathology—8
Eye and Ear, combined—19	Pediatrics—26
Gynecology—6	Physiotherapy—1
Medicine—19	Psychiatry—61
Neurology—40	Radiology—1
Obstetrics—12	Roentgenology—14
Obstetrics and Gynecology, combined—10	Skin and Cancer—7
Ophthalmology—13	Surgery—20
Orthopedics—25	Tuberculosis—6
Otolaryngology—19	Urology—5

The Committee has prepared a booklet or guide for the use of visiting medical men, particularly for those whose stay in the city is limited. The booklet is entitled "Opportunities for Postgraduate Medical Study Offered in the Hospitals of New York City." It contains much of the information which I have included in this paper but presents it in more detail, particularly as regards operative and non-operative clinics and conferences. The body of the booklet consists of a description of the special facilities for postgraduate study which each of the listed hospitals offers, and includes the names of the attending medical men and their days and hours of attendance.

BUREAU OF CLINICAL INFORMATION

The Committee on Medical Education maintains at the Academy a Bureau of Clinical Information where detailed information is available regarding opportunities for post-graduate medical study in Greater New York, and also in other cities of the United States, Canada and Europe. Information in regard to graduate medical work in England and on the continent is being added to and kept up to date by publications and reports received from abroad through representatives of the committee and societies, and from interviews with American medical men who have recently returned from a period of foreign study.

The Bureau publishes each evening a "Daily Surgical Bulletin" in which are listed the operations to be performed the following day in the clinics of 65 hospitals. The Bulletin is mailed to visiting physicians in time to be delivered at their residence by eight o'clock in the morning.

The Bureau also publishes a "Bulletin of Non-Operative Clinics and Conferences" which announces clinics given in 61 approved hospitals of the city. A total of 176 clinics are listed. The subjects of the clinics include general medicine, allergy, arthritis, cardiology, diabetes, endocrinology, gastro-enterology, health clinics, mental clinics, metabolism, neurology and psychiatry, obesity, occupational diseases, pediatrics, physical therapy, pulmonary diseases including phthisis, anesthesia, blood transfusion, bronchoscopy, cancer, gynecology, dermatology and syphilology, ophthalmology, otolaryngology, proctology, radium therapy, roentgenology, surgery and urology. Physicians are welcome at all of the clinics announced in both the "Bulletin of Operative Clinics" and the "Bulletin of Non-Operative Clinics and Conferences."

This brief statement of opportunities for postgraduate medical study in Greater New York would be quite inadequate if further mention were not made of the many medical meetings which are held in the city during the

“Academic year.” Besides the stated meetings of the Academy and of its twelve sections, more than forty other medical societies meet in the Academy building. Programs are announced in advance in “Medical Week,” the official organ of the Medical Society of the County of New York, and are posted on the Academy bulletin board. The stated and section meetings of the Academy are also announced in the Academy “folder” which is issued twice each month. Copies of the folder are mailed free to physicians who request it.

THE EDWARD N. GIBBS MEMORIAL PRIZE FUND

The income of this fund, amounting to approximately \$1,000 annually for three years, is available for research upon diseases of the kidney.

Workers in properly equipped laboratories desiring to apply for a grant in this fund may make application to the Committee of the Edward N. Gibbs Memorial Prize Fund, The New York Academy of Medicine, 2 East 103rd Street, New York City.